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Message Text

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45
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CU-02 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W
---------- 054405
P 201510Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5270
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1109

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SEDU, PFOR, BC, LT, WZ
SUBJECT: UBLS: LESOTHO PASSES ENABLING LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

REF: MBABANE 1753 AND PREVIOUS

1. GOL TODAY PASSED ENABLING LEGISLATION THROUGH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO PERMIT LESOTHO TO WITHDRAW FROM UBLS AND ESTABLISH ITS OWN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. LEGISLATION WAS PUSHED THROUGH IN MATTER OF FEW HOURS UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES, AND THERE WAS LITTLE DEBATE.

2. PRELIMINARY REPORTS COMING TO US INDICATE THAT GOL TOOK THIS DRASTIC STEP AFTER IT BECAME CONVINCED THAT VC ROGERS INTENDS, WITH BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND SUPPORT, TO CONTEST CONTRACT ISSUE IN COURTS, AND THAT UBLS COUNCIL WAS SEEKING TO MOVE UNIVERSITY CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION TO SWAZILAND. ALTHOUGH LEGISLATION PASSED TODAY IS "ENABLING" ONLY, UNDP RESREP KABBAH ADVISES THAT IN HIS OPINION GOL BELIEVES IT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO PROCEED WITH ESTABLISHING ITS OWN UNIVERSITY. KABBAH IS STILL TRYING TO CONVINCE ROGERS TO BOW OUT FOR GOOD OF UBLS, BUT HE HAS NO REAL HOPE
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OF SUCCEEDING.

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3. WE UNDERSTAND GOL HAS ADVISED OTHER TWO GOVERNMENTS
THAT THEIR STUDENTS PRESENTLY ENROLLED AT ROMA WILL NOT BE
AFFECTED BY LEGISLATION.

4. EXPECT TO HAVE MORE DETAILS TO REPORT SHORTLY.
HAUGHT

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 20 OCT 1975
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: UBLS: LESOTHO PASSES ENABLING LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
TAGS: EAID, SEDU, PFOR, BC, LT, WZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006